

SECRET 110055Z CITE

25X1A

25X1A

OXCART/ INTELL

THIS IS A

25X1A

EXTRACTED FROM LAS VEGAS SUN DATED 7 JAN 67. HEADLINESSECRET SPY PLANE LOST. SUB HEADLINES - ONE MAN ABOARD BIG JET.
QUOTE: MYSTERY DEEPENED YESTERDAY AROUND THE DISAPPEARANCE
OVER SOUTHERN NEVADA THRUSDAY OF A TOP SECRET SPY PLANE.
MISSING WITH ONE MAN ABOARD IS AN EXPERIMENTAL SR-71. IT WAS
FLYING A TRACK BETWEEN EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF AND
TONOPAH.

ALTHOUGH THE AIRCRAFT WAS PRESUMED DOWN ON A FIXED COURSE, SEARCH PLANES AND ROUTINE MILITARY TRAINING FLIGHTS FAILED TO SPOT ANY SIGN OF WRECKAGE.

THE AIR FORCE IDENTIFIED THE TEST PILOT AS A CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORP DESIGNER AND BUILDER OF THE TWIN ENGINE CRAFT.

SECRET

GROUP (
EDUCATED FROM AUTC.
MATTE OFFENCE AUTCANON
AND OUTCASSIFICATION

Approved For Release 2001/04/17 : CIA-RDP71B00590R000100000007-0

THE SPEED OF SOUND.

RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST AT 4 P.M. THURSDAY AS THE SR-71 PASSED
WEST OF LAS VEGAS ON TEST MISSION. THE AIR FORCE SAID THE
FLANE HAD ONLY ENOUGH FUEL REMAINING FOR ANOTHER HOUR OF FLIGHT.

THE SR-71 DESIGNED FOR "WORLD-WIDE STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE" FLIES
HIGHER THAN 15 MILES AT 2530 MILES PER HOUR OR CLOSE TO FOUR TIMES

ITS ULTRA SENSITIVE, INFRA RED HEAT CAMERAS CAN PHOTOGRAPH 60,000 SQUARE MILES OF TERRAIN FOR EVERY HOUR THE PLANE IS ALOFT, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON IN 1964 WHEN HE ANNOUNCED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLANE. PRODUCTION OF THE SR-71 SOON MADE THE FAMOUS U-2 OBSOLETE, LOCKHEED ALSO MANUFACTURED THE EARLIER SPY PLANE. ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF SR-71 HAVE BEEN PLACED IN OPERATION. ONE SQUADRON FLIES FROM BEALE AIR FORCE BASE NEAR MARYSVILLE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. THE ONE SHIP BASED AT EDWARDS AFB WAS USED FOR FURTHER EXPERIMENTATION. THE SAME AIRPLANE LAST NOV 21 CAUSED EARTHE SHAKING SONIC BOOMS IN LAS VEGAS WHEN IT PASSED ON THE SAME TRACK FROM WHICH IT DISAPPEARED THURSDAY. AIR FORCE OFFICIALS AT EDWARDS HAD NO COMMENT ON THE SUPER SPY PLANE'S DISAPPEARANCE OTHER THAN THAT THE SEARCH WAS CONTINUALLY IN PROGRESS. ALTHOUGH THE SR-71 FLIES ON THE EDGE OF SPACE, AIR FORCE OFFICIALS SAID IT WAS "UNFEASIBLE" THAT THE CRAFT COULD ESCAPE THE PULL OF GRAVITY AND BE PLACED IN ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH. THEY SAID THE SEARCH WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE PLANE IS FOUND. EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO, ANOTHER SR-71 FROM EDWARDS CRASHED ON A ROCKY PLATEAU NEAR ALBERT, N.M. ONE TEST PILOT WAS KILLED AND ANOTHER BAILED OUT SAFELY. UNQUOTE. S E C R E T TOR 119128Z JAN 67

Approved For Release 2001/04/17 : ©IÆ-RDF 1B0 590R000100090007-0